

INFORMATION



ABOUT FILESEARCH

If you use documents and want

- economical storage
- rapid retrieval
- automatic file structuring
- natural language indexing

then you should know about FileSearch, a special-purpose information processing system which is revolutionizing the use of documentary information. With FileSearch you can make a logically sophisticated inquiry of a collection of documents and receive moments later an organized dossier of relevant information.

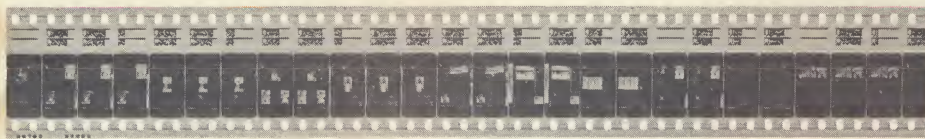
FileSearch stores large amounts of information in a small space; a million and a half documents in FileSearch format occupy only a single filing cabinet. FileSearch retrieves requested documents rapidly; each second it scans more than 100 pages for information satisfying a request.

The small space in which FileSearch stores information and the great speed with which it retrieves it are enabling people to put information to new uses. Both in the United States and abroad, FileSearch is already at work turning troublesomely large volumes of information into operationally useful sources of informed decisions.

HOW FILESEARCH WORKS

STORAGE

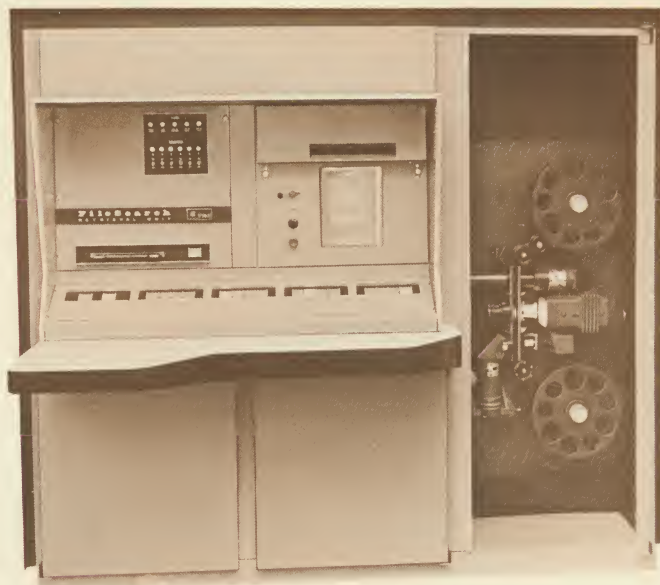
Verbal or numerical indexing information is automatically converted to machine language by a special typewriter. The indexing information and the document it describes are then recorded simultaneously by the Recording Unit (r.). The result is a photographic tape (shown below) which combines the best features of digital tape (machine-readability) and photography (high density information storage).



The full texts of documents (reduced to 1/25th of their original size) are stored in reproducible, human-readable form. The index terms are stored in machine-readable form so that the documents can be located quickly and automatically.

RETRIEVAL

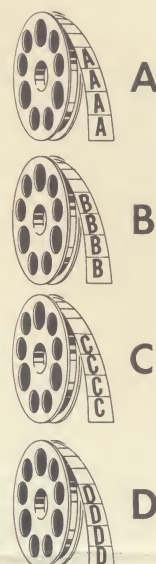
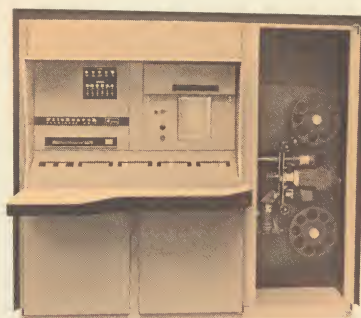
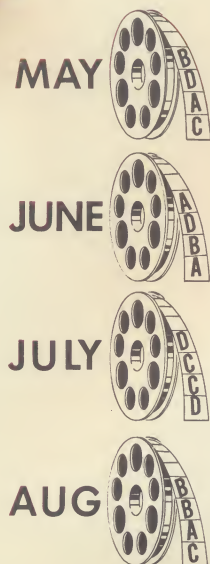
The Retrieval Unit answers questions asked of the stored documents. A request for information is automatically converted into machine language by the special typewriter. The Retrieval Unit searches the photographic tape, comparing the request with the indexing information.



When they match properly, the Unit stops and retrieves the document. AND, OR, and NOT associations and limit comparisons enable requestors to ask for such things as "documents which will give me the reliability history of components which have failed more than five times during preliminary shake testing."

Documents can be retrieved as an image on a screen (for browsing) or as reproduced copy. They can also be selectively duplicated (along with their indexing information) on a new reel of photographic tape. This form of retrieval is used when off-line reproduction is desirable, or when the files are being structured.





STRUCTURING THE FILES

The files can be automatically structured by means of a process called file segmentation. If a reel of photographic tape devoted to a specific subject is desired, the Retrieval Unit searches the files, selects all documents related to the subject, and reproduces them and their index information on a new reel of photographic tape (see illustration above). Thus a subject matter scattered randomly throughout the files can be gathered together on a single reel. File segmentation organizes information into any pattern which people find functionally useful.

SOME ADVANTAGES OF THE FILESEARCH SYSTEM

1. *The system has been proven in operational use.* FileSearch has been successfully used in on-line operation in commercial and military installations throughout the United States and Europe.
2. *It is specifically designed to store and retrieve documentary information.* FileSearch automates the entire information processing cycle, not just a part of it; the output of a search is the requested documents, so that no manual follow-up system is required.
3. *It simplifies indexing.* FileSearch places no indexing constraints upon its users. Documents can be indexed to any depth desirable in natural language or numerical codes. Any indexing scheme can be used.
4. *It can begin operation immediately.* Because it was built to store and retrieve information, FileSearch eliminates programming, and hence the expense and delay often associated with it.
5. *It is economical.* In a typical application, equipment, supplies, and personnel cost only a fraction as much as conventional data processing equipment.

SOME FACTS ABOUT FILESEARCH STORAGE

32 pages/foot
 28,000 pages/reel (max.)
 1,500,000 pages/filing cabinet

RETRIEVAL

Search rate:
 6400 pages/minute

Reproduction rates:

- (i) screen-instantaneous projection
- (ii) hard copy—
app. 5 seconds/copy
- (iii) photographic tape copy—
app. 0.6 second/copy

OTHER

Special site modifications: None
 Programming requirements: None



FMA, INC., EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON 14, D.C.

FMA inc.

31 August 1964

Mr. Theodore H. Nelson
Instructor
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

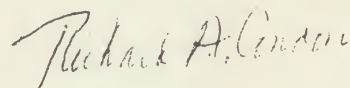
Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your interest in the FileSearch system. I am enclosing a brochure which describes its main functional characteristics. Should you feel that FileSearch has a possible application within your organization, I would be happy to answer any questions you have about the system and send you more detailed information.

Because of the widespread acceptance of the system, we have such things as reliability figures and typical costs based on several years of factual operational data. We also have a computer program which, given the main characteristics of an application, enables us to calculate required machine time and personnel. We are happy to place these at the service of our potential customers.

Sincerely,

FMA, INC.



Richard A. Condon

RAC:dmj

Enclosure